August 2, 2026

# ON THE WAY TOGETHER

Finding & Extending Belonging *in Jesus' Family*



**SERMON:** Created for Belonging
**SPEAKER:** Pastor Dave
**CORE SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1:1, 27; 2:15, 18, 25; 3:6-8, 15, 17, 21; Ephesians 2:4-5

WATCH SERMON | SERMON NOTES

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

### SUMMARY

Pastor Dave launched our new sermon series by exploring our deep, God-given need for belonging. He contrasted "fitting in"—altering ourselves to hide—with true belonging, which means being fully known and fully loved by God and one another.

Through Genesis 1-3, he showed us the Four Fundamentals of Human Belonging: our relationships with God, one another, our work, and ourselves.

Sin fractured all four of these relationships, leaving us hiding behind our own "fig leaves." But God didn't leave us in our brokenness. Through Jesus Christ, God takes the initiative to restore what sin broke, clothing us with grace we don't deserve and inviting us into belonging that begins with Him—not with our efforts to earn it.

### SHARE

Think about a time in your life when you tried to "fit in" rather than truly belong. What did that look like? How did it feel different from a time when you experienced genuine belonging?

### READ

Let's read together **Genesis 1:27**, **2:18, 25**, and **3:6-8, 21** as a group.

### DISCUSS

Feel free to pick/choose what is most helpful for you. Remember the goal is to have rich, relational, authentic, Jesus-centered discussions.

1. What stood out to you the most about the sermon?
2. In Genesis 1:27, we're told that God created mankind "in his own image." Pastor Dave called this an "eternal intrinsic value of worth." Looking closely at this text and its context in Genesis 1, what does it mean theologically that our worth is not created by us but discovered? How does being made in God's image shape our understanding of human dignity and value?

3. Genesis 2:18 says, “It is not good for the man to be alone.” This is the first time God declares something “not good” in creation. Read Genesis 2:18-25 together. What does this passage reveal about God’s design for human relationship and community? How does this extend to our relationships?

4. Pastor Dave described how sin fractured all four fundamental relationships—with God, one another, work, and self. Which of these four broken relationships do you most resonate with in your own life right now? How have you seen that brokenness play out?

5. Genesis 3:21 shows God making garments of skin for Adam and Eve after they made fig leaves for themselves. What “fig leaves” are you tempted to hide behind instead of receiving the covering God wants to give you? How does this picture of God’s initiative challenge our tendency to hustle for belonging?

6. Read Ephesians 2:4-5 together. Paul writes that God “made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions.” How does understanding that God takes the initiative in our belonging change the way we approach our relationship with Him and with His church?

## NEXT STEPS

- **Reflect on your fig leaves:** This week, take time to journal or pray about the ways you’ve tried to create your own sense of belonging or hide your true self. Ask God to show you where you need to receive His grace instead of hustling for acceptance.
- **Reach out in belonging:** Think of one person in your life—at church, work, or in your neighbourhood—who might be struggling to find belonging. Reach out to them this week with an invitation to coffee, a meal, or simply a conversation that says, “You belong here.”
- **Memorize Genesis 1:27:** Commit this verse to memory as a reminder that your worth is rooted in being made in God’s image, not in what you achieve or how well you fit in.

## PRAY

**Spend time praying together as a group:**

- **Thanksgiving:** Thank God for creating us to belong to Him and for His initiative in pursuing us even when we were hiding.
- **Confession:** Confess the ways we’ve tried to find belonging in other places—work, success, approval, or fitting in—instead of first resting in our relationship with God.
- **Intercession:** Pray for one another’s specific struggles with belonging. Pray for those in your group who are navigating broken relationships, workplace frustrations, or shame about who they are.
- **Mission:** Ask God to use Cornerstone and your small group as a place where people experience true belonging—being fully known and fully loved.

## CONNECT

Check out **The Hub** for upcoming community **events**, **workshops**, or **serving opportunities** where your group can show God’s compassion in practical ways across Markham, Stouffville, and the broader GTA.

Cool off with **Group Life Ice-Cream Social** **Saturday, August 15** from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. All ages are welcome. **Let us know you’re coming**.

## CLOSING

As we close, remember that belonging isn't something we earn or achieve—it's something we receive from God. This week, may you rest in the truth that you were created to belong to Him, and may that belonging overflow into every relationship and space you enter.